Glasgow Circular

Boston, Friday 22d July 1850.

My dear Mr. Estlin,

I am almost unwilling to begin or send a letter to you by this Ship, as I must needs write so briefly & so hurriedly. But I feel that I ought not to lose more time in transmitting to you Wm. H. Channing's note, which I got him to write in a bookstore on one of the days of the N. Eng. Anti-Slavery Convention. Every fortnight I have hoped to send you a letter & his note with it; and in justice to him, & to you who have waited for it so long, I cannot keep it longer. I am your debtor for several letters rec'd. since I last you, with enclosures, which I will briefly refer to; One of May 6th. (brief), & a previous one (more full) of April 26. These were brought by young Mr. Edmondson; who also brought the Memorial from the Bristol Meeting, designed to have been presented to the N. E. Convention, and which might have been, if Mr. E. who landed at New York, had sent it here at once instead of keeping it a week there, & then bringing it himself. These I rec'd. on the 4th June. - On the 25th June I rec'd. yours of June 7th. There are so many things in those letters, & so many other topics, on all of which I am desirous to write you, that I shall not undertake now to reply at all.

I will briefly say that I received yesterday

from R. D. Webb, by hand of Chr. Wallcut, the 35/ you forwarded, and I have appropriated the money according to your directions; an acct. of the same I transmit herewith; you will find it on the same sheet with Mr. Channing's note. —

When I went home to Leicester a fortnight since (after 10 days' absence at Anti-Slavery Meeting, including our great 4th July out-of-door State Meeting at Abington), I obtained news of your movements from my wife. For once she had got later information from you than I had. The day before, Mrs. Sargent of Worcester had called to see her, & told her she had just rec'd. a letter from her husband in Paris, Dr. Joseph Sargent, who spoke of seeing you & your daughter there. I was rejoiced to hear you had got to Paris at length, & that the various obstacles had all been surmounted. I hoped you & your daughter enjoyed it, without admixture of trouble from ill health & other causes. My ten days in Paris were delightful to me, more than I can tell; to me, it was a sort of enchantment; — this, by the way. — I hope you were not disappointed in seeing Mrs. Follen there. I am eager to know how you liked Mrs. Chapman. Caroline I think would be your preference. — Emma has had much admiration for her beauty; & little for so young a girl, she has a great deal of character, and her activity & devotion to the Anti-Slavery cause have been most honorable to her, as well as helpful to the Ladies workers. — By this time

I trust, you are safe at home again, or in some quiet country retreat, & find yourselves the better for the trip to Paris. - I am glad too you met with Dr. Sargent. I think I gave him a letter of introduction to you. He has many excellent qualities. I wish he was not so egotistic; his self-conceit is sometimes disagreeably prominent. Withal, he is pleasant, intelligent, enthusiastic about his profession, & considerably interested in Anti-Slavery. You know this would cover some defects, if not of a worse character, in ~~his~~ my eyes. —

The copy you sent of the Glasgow Circular is the only one which, so far as I can learn, has yet got to this country; & a, at least, into the hands of any of our friends. I was really indignant at its meanness, and surprised at its weakness. Garrison said it was all the doing of J. W. C. Pennington, a colored minister of the Episcopal Church here, who is evidently in league with the B. & F. Society to put down the Amer. A. S. Society. Mr. G. said the letter ought to be made the occasion of a ~~systematic~~ careful & well-digested Statement in behalf of the Amer. Society & by its authority, showing & defending its real position, & he half promised the Exec. Committee at the time (17 days ago) that he would go to work on such a reply. But as yet he has done nothing - & he now says, he cannot - he has not the time to hunt up the proofs, & perform the labour of the thing, & thinks I had better leave it to the British

friends. I am very sorry for this conclusion. Whatever he did would not stand in the way of or prevent, any thing that friends abroad would do, or be rendered superfluous by them. I hope yet he will take it up. It is true he is hard worked. His paper demands his week-day time, and he is given us a good deal of help in carrying on our Antislavery Conventions. He is in pretty good health, but I fear for its continuance. — You are purpose to prepare something in reveiw of that Glasgow piece of weakness & bigotry, I hope you will renew & complete. Our friends were very glad to learn of it. — H. C. Wright's letters are not acceptable to most of our friends. He is a man of a good deal of self-conceit, in my opinion. And I say I cannot understand how repulsive his style of writing is to English readers; I think I can perceive, for it has long been so to me, & grows more so. I tried hard to tolerate & overlook the disagreeable features in consideration of his whole-hearted devotion to his ideas of truth, & his steadfast labors for the cause of freedom, peace, & every human right and good. — I have talked plainly with him on the needless, & to many most objectionable, use of the terms & style he chooses; but he cannot be turned. Harriet Lupton has written to Mr. Garrison a most excellent note on the subject — delivering "her testimony" in an admirable manner. She tells him the note is "strictly private"; but I have told him that her comments on H. C. W. are just, so temperate, & every way so good, that they ought to be published, & I advised him to do so, without

publishing her name. To this I hope she will not object.

The note for Douglas I forwarded without delay.

I did not mean to ask your opinion about Homoeopathy, for I thought I understood it fully; you certainly had espoused it clearly & decidedly. — You are right about the great carelessness in this county in regard to diet. — it is a fruitful source of disease & suffering. For myself, I have been a pretty careful liver for the past 7 or 8 years — moderate in the amount, rather than exclusive as to the kind, of food, & eating only at stated times. My health through April & May was very poor, and I had almost made up my mind to a very poor kind of a Summer; but since I took up my Summer abode in Leicester, & took my hoe, or garden-weeder, or other implement of work, in hand daily, I have been steadily gaining. I am now in town for a few days only. We are hoping for a great demonstration at Worcester on the 1st August for which I am now preparing. — R. L. Carpenter called to see me to-day; he tells me he shall go to the first August Meeting, & from there will go to Leicester & make me a visit. Ah. I fear, from what he said, will be a very short one. — I would like an opportunity of considerable talk with him.

Mr. Wellcut tells me, it is not his custom to send receipts to his foreign subscribers. I tell him I think it would be well to do so; but his books are very carefully kept.

If young Mr. Mahony should call, I shall be very glad to render him any aid in my power.

I must thank you for the very handsome & abundant attention shown to my young friends & relatives, the Forthinghams. I hope they merit themselves properly grateful; they are clever young fellows, but I have often thought accepted favours with too little recognition of them as such. Their mother (who died 7yrs. ago) was one of the most lively, kindhearted beings I ever knew. Both she & her husband were our cousins of mine - & our cousins to one another.

The news of the death of our President - of Zachary Taylor - of "old Zack" - will have reached you before this. I sincerely lamented his death; I never thought to have so regretted him. He would have dealt, in all probability, with the arrogance of upstart, & robber Texas, as no other man we have will attempt to do. Just now, Texas is the catspaw of the Slave Power. All Slave-dom is setting her on to provoke War with New. Mexico. Little of good is expected of our new President, Fillmore. It is very much against him, that he has selected Daniel Webster for his Secretary of State. Webster's last made another vile, Southern Speech. He walks the truth of the Apostle's word, "Evil men & seducers shall grow worse & worse, deceiving & being deceived."

I was much pleased to hear, first from Bro. & then from yourself, that you were at the same house in London, - & that & elsewhere had seen so much of him. His statement as to his most unfortunate connexion & difficulties with his wife you will have seen. I am sure that it was wrung out of him, with much regret & pain. I am very sorry for the necessity; but it is well that it has been done.

My best regards to all Bristol friends; Yours ever, Sam'l May

MSS B. 116 v. 14, p. 19

A few words on this scrap, which you will please destroy; for I would do nothing to hurt the feelings of Mary Carpenter & her sisters. — You refer to some letter of R. L. C's, written from slave states, and "hope that he will speak out here". It would be of no great use, I think, for him to speak out on slavery now, just as he is about embarking for home. He ought to have done it long ago; but he has lived on the hospitality & good offices of the Unitarian ministry

and has yielded to the influence (perhaps willingly enough of those who would deceive, if possible, the very elect, — attended the N.E. Anti-Slavery Convention repeatedly, May 29. & 30, & as he himself told me went into the Gallery!

The 31st he came to the Convention on Capital Punishment, once came forward near the Speakers' stand, & soon accepted an invitation to make some few remarks. Why could he not Done that for the A.S. cause?[2]

MS. B, 1, 6 v. 14, p. 19